

B1 A1 forming a second database table having a plurality of entries, each entry defining a relationship between said plurality of objects, wherein each entry is associated with at least one of the multiple hierarchies.

A2 A2 5. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of relationships include tree type structures.

B2 A3 21. (Amended) A method of creating a relational data structure for storage and retrieval of multiple simultaneous hierarchical database relationships without needing dedicated database relationships between objects in the multiple hierarchies, the method comprising:  
forming a table of members available in the multiple simultaneous hierarchical database relationships;  
forming a table of reporting relationships among the members available in the multiple simultaneous hierarchical database relationships; and  
forming a table having a set of hierarchies, each hierarchy corresponding to a reporting relationship in said table of reporting relationships.

Sub B3 A4 23. (New) A method for representing at least a first hierarchical relationship using a relational data structure, wherein the first hierarchical relationship includes a plurality of objects, wherein each of the plurality of objects is related to at least one other object of the plurality of objects as a parent object or a child object in a parent-child relationship, the method comprising:  
creating a first table, wherein the first table associates each of the plurality of objects with an object identifier; and  
creating a second table, wherein each parent-child relationship is represented by associating the object identifier of each parent object with the object identifier of each related child object and indicating that each parent-child relationship is associated with the first hierarchical relationship, so that multiple simultaneous hierarchies can be defined using the relational data structure without needing dedicated database relationships between objects in the multiple hierarchies.

24. (New) The method of claim 23 further including defining a second hierarchical relationship in the second table using the plurality of objects included in the first hierarchical relationship, wherein the second hierarchical relationship is defined by:

creating at least one different parent-child relationship than is present in the first hierarchical relationship; and  
and indicating that the different parent-child relationship is linked to the second hierarchical structure.

25. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising creating a third table, wherein the third table includes a summary of the first and second hierarchies.

26. (New) The method of claim 24 further comprising retrieving data associated with at least one of the plurality of objects in a single round trip.

27. (New) The method of claim 23 further comprising indicating whether each parent-child relationship is direct or indirect.

28. (New) A method for using a relational data structure to represent multiple simultaneous hierarchies without needing dedicated database relationships between objects in each of the multiple hierarchies, wherein the relational data structure is based on a plurality of objects, and wherein each of the plurality of objects is related to at least one other object of the plurality of objects by a defined relationship, the method comprising:

associating each of the plurality of objects with an object identifier;  
associating the object identifier of each of the plurality of objects with the object identifier of each related object to represent each defined relationship; and  
indicating that each relationship is associated with at least one of the multiple hierarchies.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 further comprising retrieving a portion of the relational data structure using a single round trip, wherein the retrieving includes:

summarizing data associated with a first of the plurality of objects;  
retrieving defined relationships between the first object and a remainder of the plurality of objects; and

summarizing data associated with the remainder of the plurality of objects that have a defined relationship with the first object.